Development of Tourism in Madhya Pradesh

†548. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although a number of diversities exist in Jabalpur, Gwalior, etc. in Madhya Pradesh from the tourism point of view, the Central and State Governments have not shown any interest for development of tourism at these places;

(b) if not, the details of the developmental work carried out, so far;

(c) whether Government are considering to construct ITDC hotels at these places for the convenience of the tourists and also to boost tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist spots/interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administrations themselves. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds for development of different tourist places on the basis of field visits/consultation with the States/UT Administrations concerned.

During the 8th & 9th plans and in the first two years of the 10th Plan, Department of Tourism has sanctioned the following Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh:—

Plan	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In Lakhs)
8th	9	76.15
9th	68	1580.41
10th	28	1333.08

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to construct ITDC hotels at Jabalpur, Gwalior, etc.

Growth of Tourism Industry

549. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed afresh the existing practices/ mechanism established for co-ordination amongst various concerned Ministries, like Civil Aviation, Railways etc., the State Governments as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

also the private sector, to identify catalysts and synergise strategies for the unimpeded growth of tourism industry in the country;

(b) if so, the results thereof, especially the bottlenecks/shortcomings noticed in the mechanism; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives being taken to streamline the existing machinery to speed up the process of consultations to help accelerate the pace of growth of tourism in country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Government has set up a mechanism for Inter-Ministerial consultations for tourism related issues. Further, in order to have a forum which can advise the Government on various policy matters concerning tourism and act as a 'Think Tank', the National Tourism Advisory Council is being re-constituted which, *inter-alia*, has representation from the field of travel and tourism management as also Presidents of various tourism related Associations.

Tourist Traffic

550. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist traffic in India is dwindling over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in comparison to other foreign tourism destinations, overseas tourists find India a costly tourist centre, resulting in their travelling to other tourism centres; and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to make tourism in India more interesting and competitve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Foreign tourist arrivals to India in the last 5 years are as follows:—

Year	Tourist Arrivals (Million)	% Change
2000	2.65	6.7
2001	2.54	-4.2
2002	2.38	-6.0
2003	2.73	14.3
2004 (Jan-Nov.)	2.98*	24.0

* Provisional